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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY China

DATE DISTR. 17 March 1949

SUBJECT Political Information: Possible Cleavage in
Chinese Communist Party

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. In the reported cleavage in the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) between MAO Tse-tung and LI Li-san factions, LIN Piao, believed the strongest of the LI group, has been attempting to win the support of Generals LIU Po-cheng and CHEN Yi.
2. To win over LIU Po-cheng, LIN Piao has summoned him to Peiping and has reportedly offered him the position of chief of staff to CHU Te, replacing YEH Chien-ying, who is now mayor of Peiping. LIU, who has not declared his stand, is believed to have been inclined toward MAO.
3. To win the support of CHEN Yi against MAO, LIN Piao is reported to be presently visiting CHEN in Central China. CHEN is deeply indebted to LIN for having saved his troops with arms and supplies at Hsuehou. After the fall of Mukden, when LIN Piao counselled an immediate attack on Tientsin, MAO gambled on winning in Central China and crushing the Kuomintang and ordered CHEN Yi to attack Hsuehou; but CHEN was ill-prepared and would have been defeated had it not been for aid from LIN Piao.

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Comment. [REDACTED] a liberal who insists that there is and will be freedom of speech, press, and assembly under the Chinese Communists, derides any report of cleavage in the CCP. He claims that LI Li-san has no friends or influence among the Communists and that LIN Piao and MAO have been close friends for the past twenty years and LIN is completely loyal to MAO.

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